

LEST WE FORGET: UNIT X: ECOLOGY
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1. Although the term interbreeding implies sexual reproduction, a group of individuals resulting from even asexual reproduction is also generally considered a population for the purpose of ecological studies.
2. Population ecology is an important area of ecology because it links ecology to population genetics and evolution.
3. Under a particular set of selection pressures, organisms evolve towards the most efficient reproductive strategy.
4. Predators also help in maintaining species diversity in a community, by reducing the intensity of competition among competing prey species.
5. Thorns are the most common morphological means of defence in plants against herbivory.
6. Totally unrelated species could also compete for the same resource. Resources need not be limiting for competition to occur.
7. Species facing competition might evolve mechanisms that promote co-existence rather than exclusion; One such mechanism is 'resource partitioning'.
8. In accordance with their life styles, parasites evolved special adaptations such as the loss of unnecessary sense organs, presence of adhesive organs or suckers to cling on to the host, loss of digestive system and high reproductive capacity.
9. Plant-animal interactions often involve co-evolution of the mutualists, that is, the evolutions of the flower and its pollinator species are tightly linked with one another.
10. Being colloidal in nature humus serves as a reservoir of nutrients.
11. Ecosystems are not exempt from the Second Law of thermodynamics.
12. The consumers that feed on these herbivores are carnivores, or more correctly primary carnivores (though secondary consumers).
13. Detritus food chain may be connected with the grazing food chain at some levels: some of the organisms of DFC are prey to the GFC animals, and in a natural ecosystem, some animals like cockroaches, crows, etc., are omnivores.
14. Measurement of biomass in terms of dry weight is more accurate.

15. The trophic level represents a functional level, not a species as such. A given species may occupy more than one trophic level in the same ecosystem at the same time.
16. There are certain limitations of ecological pyramids such as it does not take into account the same species belonging to two or more trophic levels.
17. Saprophytes are not given any place in ecological pyramids even though they play a vital role in the ecosystem.
18. Considering that an overwhelmingly large proportion of the species waiting to be discovered are in the tropics, biologists make a statistical comparison of the temperate-tropical species richness of an exhaustively studied group of insects and extrapolate this ratio to other groups of animals and plants to come up with a gross estimate of the total number of species on earth.
19. Conventional taxonomic methods are not suitable for identifying microbial species and many species are simply not culturable under laboratory conditions.
20. A stable community should not show too much variation in productivity from year to year; it must be either resistant or resilient to occasional disturbances (natural or man-made), and it must also be resistant to invasions by alien species.
21. When large habitats are broken up into small fragments due to various human activities, mammals and birds requiring large territories and certain animals with migratory habits are badly affected, leading to population declines.
22. Where an animal or plant is endangered or threatened and needs urgent measures to save it from extinction, ex situ (off site) conservation is the desirable approach.
23. 'Biodiversity hotspots' regions with very high levels of species richness and high degree of endemism.
24. Sacred groves are found in Khasi and Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, Aravalli Hills of Rajasthan, Western Ghat regions of Karnataka and Maharashtra and the Sarguja, Chanda and Bastar areas of Madhya Pradesh.